

I disagree with the proposal for automatic upgrade of Novice and Advanced licensees with over 20 years of operating experience. There have been enough changes in rules and technology in the last 20 years, and testing has become so much more accessible through the VE program, so that preparing for and passing a current test should not be seen as a burden, but as a challenge and opportunity to be seized and conquered. When I was first licensed, the Novice was for one year only, and non-renewable. If someone is still a Novice after 20 years, they should either test for a higher license, or switch to FRS. If someone is still an Advanced after 20 years, preparing for a current Extra examination will be a stimulating, challenging refresher on the current technology available to the licensed amateur.

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